

What is claimed is:

1           1. An extendible serving utensil for serving  
2 food at a salad bar or the like, said extendible  
3 serving utensil comprising:

4           a) a retractable tether housing means;

5           b) means for coupling said retractable tether  
6 housing means to an external mounting means for  
7 elevating said retractable tether housing means  
8 relative to said salad bar;

9           c) a tether means connected to said retractable  
10 tether housing means, at one end thereof, for  
11 retraction of said tether means into said retractable  
12 tether housing means, said tether means having a free  
13 end; and

14           d) a serving utensil coupled to said free end of  
15 said tether means.

1           2. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 1  
2 and in which said serving utensil is a spoon.

1           3. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 2  
2 and in which said spoon is a serving spoon.

1           4. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 1  
2 and in which said serving utensil is a pair of tongs.

1           5. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 1  
2 and in which said external mounting means is a sneeze  
3 shield over said salad bar.

1           6. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 5  
2 and further including a fixed coupling means for  
3 coupling said retractable tether housing means to  
4 said sneeze shield.

1           7. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 6  
2 and in which said fixed coupling means is an eye  
3 means with a shaft means extending therefrom and said  
4 shaft means is passed through a hole in said sneeze  
5 shield and secured to said sneeze shield.

1           8. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 5  
2 and further including a temporary coupling means for  
3 coupling said retractable tether housing means to  
4 said sneeze shield.

1           9. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 8  
2 and in which said temporary coupling means is a  
3 suction cup coupling means, having a suction cup  
4 connected temporarily between said sneeze shield and  
5 said retractable tether housing means.

1           10. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim  
2 1 and in which said external mounting means is a base  
3 plate with a shaft extending at normal therefrom and  
4 said shaft includes a connector means at a distal end  
5 of said shaft and said retractable tether housing  
6 means is coupled to said connector means at said  
7 distal end.

1           11. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim  
2 10 and in which said shaft is a two piece element  
3 with a male connector and a female connector.

1           12. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim  
2 1 and in which said external mounting means is a  
3 shaft having a connector means at one end and a clamp  
4 connector for securing said shaft on an edge of a  
5 pan.

1           13. An extendible serving utensil as in Claim 12  
2 and in which said shaft is a two piece element having  
3 a male fitting and a female fitting.

1           14. An improved salad bar or the like for  
2 serving food in spaced containers and having a sneeze  
3 shield extending over said spaced containers but  
4 spaced from said spaced containers, said salad bar  
5 including serving utensils for self service of food  
6 served in said spaced containers, said improvement  
7 comprising:

8           a) a retractable tether device having a tether  
9 means with a first end coupled to said retractable  
10 tether device and having a free end ;

11           b) a serving utensil coupled to said free end of  
12 said tether means; and

13                   c) said retractable tether secured to said  
14 sneeze shield.

1                   15.    An improved salad bar as in Claim 14  
2 wherein said serving utensil is a serving spoon.

1                   16.    An improved salad bar as in Claim 14  
2 wherein said serving utensil is a pair of tongs.

1                   17.    An improved salad bar as in Claim 14  
2 wherein said retractable tether device is secured to  
3 an under surface of said sneeze shield by a suction  
4 cup means.

1                   18.    An improved salad bar as in Claim 14  
2 wherein said retractable device is secured to an  
3 under side of said sneeze shield by a fixed connector  
4 means.

1           19. An improved salad bar or the like for  
2 serving food in spaced containers, said salad bar  
3 including serving utensils for self service of food  
4 served in said spaced containers, said improvement  
5 comprising:

6           a) a retractable tether device with a tether  
7 means connected to said retractable tether device at  
8 one end and said tether means having a free end  
9 coupled to a serving utensil;

10          b) a shaft means secured, at one end, to a  
11 container of said spaced containers and having a  
12 distal end extending above said container; and

13          c) said retractable tether device connected to  
14 said distal end of said shaft means.

1           20. An improved salad bar as in Claim 19 where  
2 said shaft means includes a base plate means at said  
3 one end for securing said shaft means vertically in  
4 said container.

1           21.    An improved salad bar as in Claim 19  
2 wherein said shaft means includes a clamp means at  
3 said one end for securing said shaft to said  
4 container.

1           22.    A retractable serving utensil system for  
2 partaking food from containers at a salad bar or the  
3 like, said retractable serving utensil system  
4 comprising:

5           a)    a retractable tether means having an  
6 extendible, retractable tether, said tether having a  
7 first end and a free end;

8           b)    means for elevating said retractable tether  
9 means above a container supported on a salad bar or  
10 the like; and

11          c)    a serving utensil means and means for  
12 coupling said serving utensil means to said free end  
13 of said extendible, retractable tether.

1           23. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 22 wherein said means for elevating includes a  
3 sneeze shield over said salad bar or the like and a  
4 means for coupling said retractable tether means to  
5 said sneeze shield.

1           24. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 23 wherein said means for coupling said  
3 retractable tether means to said sneeze shield is a  
4 suction cup coupled to said retractable tether means  
5 and connected by suction to an underside of said  
6 sneeze shield.

1           25. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 23 wherein said means for coupling said  
3 retractable tether means to said sneeze shield is an  
4 eye hook with a threaded shaft and said threaded  
5 shaft extends through a hole in said sneeze shield  
6 and is held in place by a threaded nut means.



1           26. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 22 and wherein said means for elevating  
3 includes a shaft having a first end and a distal end  
4 and said first end includes a means for securing said  
5 shaft to said container supported on said salad bar  
6 or the like and said distal end includes a means for  
7 securing said retractable tether means to said shaft.

1           27. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 22 and wherein said means for elevating  
3 includes a shaft having a first end and a distal end  
4 and said first end includes a means for securing said  
5 shaft to said container supported on said salad bar  
6 or the like and said distal end includes a housing  
7 for receiving and securing said retractable tether  
8 means.

1           28. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 27 and in which said housing for receiving and  
3 securing said retractable tether means includes a  
4 hole for permitting said extendible, retractable  
5 tether to extend out of said housing and said housing  
6 further includes a cover means for securing said  
7 retractable tether means in said housing.

1           29. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 24 wherein said serving utensil is a spoon.

1           30. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 24 wherein said serving utensil is a pair of  
3 tongs.

1           31. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 26 wherein said serving utensil is a spoon.

1           32. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 26 wherein said serving utensil is a pair of  
3 tongs.

1           33. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 27 wherein said serving utensil is a spoon.

1           34. A retractable serving utensil system as in  
2 Claim 27 wherein said serving utensil is a pair of  
3 tongs.